

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 11 are amended, and dependent claims 19 and 20 are added. Independent claims 1 and 11 are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied references. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 11 can be found in the original specification at, for example, page 10, lines 13-18. Support for the features recited in dependent claims 19 and 20 can be found in the original specification at, for example, page 10, line 4 – page 11, line 19. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 5-10, 13-16 and 18, and the identification of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 12 and 17.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,852,467 to Ogino in view of JP-A-11-341414 to Tanaka. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the calculated "maintainable time" is "a time period during which the remaining capacity of the battery is sufficient to maintain image data recorded in the volatile memory after operation of the electronic camera is disabled." Independent claim 11 is similarly amended. As described in the specification, data can be maintained in the claimed volatile memory even after the electronic camera is disabled. The "maintainable time" of claims 1 and 11 is the amount of time that such data can be maintained in the volatile memory even after the electronic camera has been disabled.

Neither Ogino nor Tanaka discloses or suggests an electronic camera that maintains data in a volatile memory during the maintainable time even after the electronic camera has been disabled, and thus neither of these references discloses or suggests calculating the maintainable time as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. As described in Ogino, any data in volatile memory 6 is lost when the camera is turned off, regardless of the capacity of the battery. See, for example, col. 1, lines 35-38, col. 5, lines 20-22 and col. 6, lines 56-63 of

Ogino. The "remaining electricity mind capacity time amount (dc-battery remaining time)" described in paragraphs [0066]-[0068] of Tanaka is merely the time that the camera will remain operational based on the remaining capacity of the battery. Tanaka does not calculate the "maintainable time" of independent claims 1 and 11 which, as discussed above, is the time period during which the remaining capacity of the battery is sufficient to maintain image data recorded in the volatile memory after operation of the electronic camera is disabled. Tanaka does not disclose or suggest calculating such a maintainable time.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 are patentable over the combination of Ogino and Tanaka. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,018,017 to Sasaki et al. in view of Tanaka. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

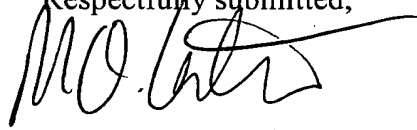
The Office Action relies upon Tanaka for allegedly disclosing the maintain time calculator of claim 11. However, as discussed above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, Tanaka does not disclose or suggest calculating the maintainable time of independent claim 11. Accordingly, independent claim 11 is patentable over the combination of Sasaki et al. and Tanaka. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Dependent claims 19 and 20 are patentable for the additional reason that none of the applied references discloses or suggests the claimed "enabled time calculator" in addition to a "maintain time calculator."

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

Date: February 9, 2006

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